Library Quarterly

SPRING 2025

MOSAIC Series p.3
Books in Bloom p.9
The Role of AI in Our Community p.10

the magazine of the Vernon Area Public Library

Message from the Director

Dear Community:

I associate spring with rebirth and new opportunities. I invite you to experience the Vernon Area Library this season with a variety of new ways to connect with topics and with others in the community. In this edition of *LQ*, you will read about:

- **MOSAIC:** a new series featuring the rich cultural heritage in our community and the greater Chicago area. Just like an art mosaic, made of different shapes, colors and textures of thousands of tesserae, our community is a mosaic of sorts, with each individual contributing their part that shapes the whole, making our community uniquely beautiful. This series uses private dollars to provide our community with premier programming that would otherwise be beyond our reach. We are grateful to the Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library District and the Goldstein Family Foundation for making this series possible.
- **New catalog:** Coming this fall, a more intuitive and modern catalog interface with access to neighboring libraries' materials. Stay tuned for details as they become available.
- **AI expert:** An artificial intelligence expert-in-residence will provide thought-provoking programming throughout 2025. Explore hands-on tools along with the philosophical aspects and societal ramifications of AI through these programs.

As you've come to expect, this issue also has our events and programs for the spring listed for your review — mark your calendars today for the topics that interest you!

Vernon Area Public Library

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CONTRIBUTORS

Laura Cohen
Catherine Savage
Prof. Davis Schneiderman

IMAGE CREDITS

p.2 Dilla Thomas, United Way of Metro Chicago; Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, David Sutton Studios

Contact

Feedback: LQ@VAPLD.info

Sign up for news and program info by email: VAPLD.info/subscribe

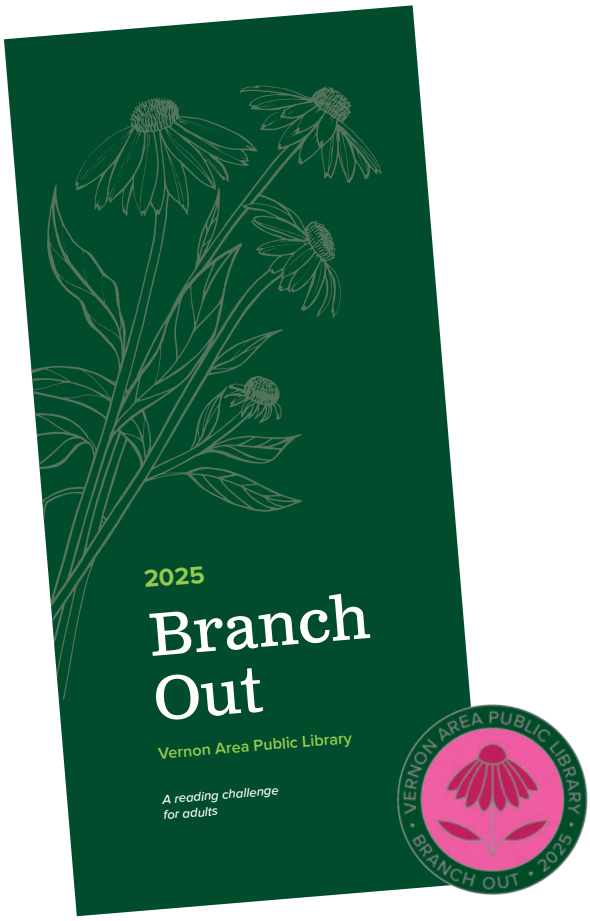
Main: 847-634-3650

Library cards, renewals: 224-543-1483

Adult Desk: 224-543-1485, AdultDesk@VAPLD.info

Youth Desk: 224-543-1486, YouthDesk@VAPLD.info

Senior Connections: 224-543-1406, senior@VAPLD.info



Branch Out

Grow your reading this year with the **Branch Out** reading challenge for adults. Whether you want to explore new genres or if you're just looking to read more, we're here to encourage your reading journey.

Participating is easy. Branch Out is designed to be as flexible as you like: complete the themes in any order, at your own pace.

Choose a theme. There are 12 to choose from, including *One Word Titles*, *Found in Translation*, and *Treat Yourself*.

Read any book that fits the theme. Choose from handpicked suggestions in the Branch Out booklet, ask at the Adult Desk for more ideas, or pick your own book.

Let us know when you finish the book. Fill out a form in the library or online at VAPLD.info/BranchOut. With each completed theme, your name will go into the hat for raffles happening throughout the year. Finish all 12 themes for a collectible pin (pictured on left; not actual size).

Get started at VAPLD.info/BranchOut or pick up a booklet at the Adult Desk.

A New Catalog Is Coming

Vernon Area Public Library cardholders will have access to more items, more quickly when the library launches a new shared catalog in fall of 2025.

Vernon Area was formally accepted as a member of Computer Cooperative Services (CCS), a group of 31 libraries in northeastern Illinois that share an online catalog and cardholder database. Members include nearby Ela Area, Indian Trails, Mount Prospect, Palatine, and Northbrook libraries.

When the new catalog becomes available, you will find an **unprecedented increase in access to materials** – both more copies and more choices – without having to search a separate catalog or make an interlibrary loan request.

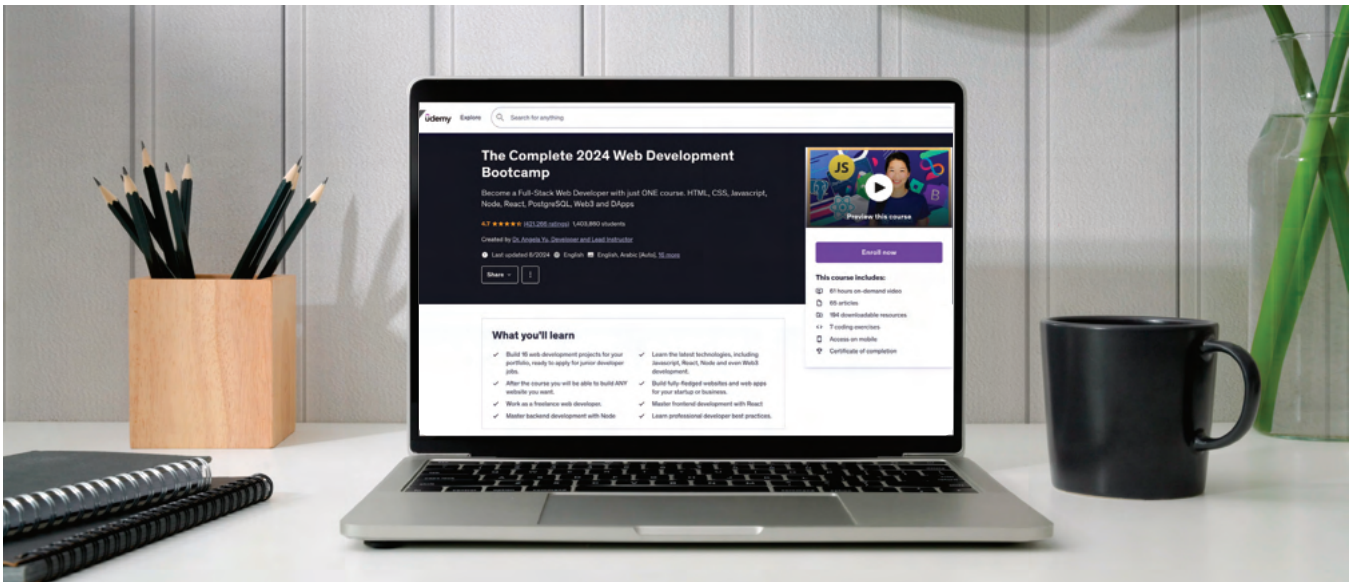
Shoe Recycling Collection

Drop off new, gently used, or worn shoes for reuse or recycling with SWALCO and keep them out of landfills. Shoes must be tied or banded together in pairs. No roller blades, ice skates, or winter boots. Dress boots, hiking boots, and rain boots are accepted.

Collection bins will be in the library lobby from **April 21–May 4**.

You can also expect to see **shorter wait times for materials**, and will be able to more easily borrow when visiting neighboring CCS libraries as your card will already be in the system.

More details will be given as we get closer to the transition.



Upskill at Work or Life

Master Microsoft Excel ... *in Hindi*, or learn about ChatGPT ... *in Korean*. As a Vernon Area Public Library cardholder, you now have unlimited access to popular courses on Udemy — including courses taught by native speakers in English and more than 12 other languages.

Udemy is an on-demand, video-based training platform similar to LinkedIn Learning or Masterclass. It is typically available only through an employer or by paid subscription, but is now free for Vernon Area Public Library cardholders.

Udemy's extensive catalog includes classes ranging from AWS to yoga, though the most popular content is business- and technology-focused.

Led by seasoned professionals, the classes are structured like traditional college courses and supported by hands-on practice and quizzes. The convenient online, on-demand format lets you pursue learning when and where you desire. Access through a browser or the Udemy app, with options to listen to classes as podcast-style audio or via Chromecast or Apple TV.

One impressive feature that makes Udemy stand out from similar services is the availability of courses taught by subject matter experts in their native language — not just captioned or dubbed. Choose from instructors speaking Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Japanese, Hindi, Polish, Russian, or other languages, plus English.

Get started on Udemy by creating an account with your Vernon Area Public Library card at VAPLD.info/udemy.

Top 10 Trending Classes on Udemy

1. Python
2. Microsoft Excel
3. Web Development
4. PMI Project Management Professional (PMP)
5. Data Science
6. Microsoft Power BI
7. SQL
8. Digital Marketing
9. AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner
10. JavaScript

MOSAIC

Connecting community through premier cultural experiences

MOSAIC is a new premier program series designed to illuminate and celebrate the vibrant cultural tapestry of our community. Through exceptional presentations and performances from renowned regional talent, MOSAIC showcases the history and artistry that makes our community special. Sign up now for the inaugural program, "80 Minutes Around the World," and mark your calendar for start of signup for programs throughout the year.

MOSAIC programs are free and open to all adults. Signup is required. Sign up online at VAPLD.info/calendar, by telephone at 224-543-1485, or at any public service desk in the library.

80 Minutes Around the World: Immigration Stories

A stellar panel of storytellers share their experiences as immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, descendants, or allies. This entertaining and enlightening show will leave you with greater appreciation for the journeys that your family, friends, and neighbors took to arrive at this place we each call home. Produced and hosted by celebrated Moth StorySLAM and GrandSLAM champion Nestor "the Boss" Gomez.

Sunday, February 23, 1–2:30 pm 🏛

Bus Tour of Bronzeville

Ride along for an insider tour of Bronzeville, Chicago's mecca of African American business, arts, culture, and politics. Our guide is by Sherman "Dilla" Thomas, a modern historian renown for sharing Chicago's rich history and shining a light on the neighborhoods often skipped over by the tourism industry. Signup opens March 6.

Sunday, April 6, 8:30 am–1:30 pm 🚌 Off-site in Chicago

Experience Bronzeville with Dilla Thomas

Multimedia presentation covers Bronzeville's history and enduring cultural impact, both on Chicago and the world.

Wednesday, April 9, 7–8 pm 🏛

Concert with Maxwell Street Klezmer Quintet

A lively celebration of traditional Eastern European Jewish folk music – with a contemporary twist. Mark your calendar

Sunday, August 10, 1–2 pm 🏛

Concert with The Internationals

Traditional folk music, dance, and revelry from Ukraine and beyond. Signup opens in fall.

Sunday, October 5, 1–2 pm 🏛

This program series is made possible through funding from the Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library District with major support from the Goldstein Family Foundation.

Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library District

The Goldstein Family Foundation

Featured Resources *for adults*

NEW 3D PRINTER

Get better quality 3D prints faster and in more color options with the library's new 3D printer. Patrons can request one FREE 3D print a month. Order your 3D print at VAPLD.info/3DPrinting

MORE MAGAZINES

Access your favorite magazines free on the Libby app. Includes *US Weekly*, *Newsweek*, *Life & Style*, *Good Housekeeping*, and more.

VAPLD.info/Libby

BUILD ON YOUR SKILLS

From critical skills to technical topics, Udemy supports your professional development. Take courses in coding, leadership, web development, and earn IT certifications. Available in other languages. VAPLD.info/Udemy

Classes & Events *for adults*

Note location with each event (🏛 in person, Ⓩ online, 🍀 outdoors). Some events offer both in-person and streaming options for attendance. All events are free and open to all. Signup is required unless otherwise noted. Sign up at VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1485.

Easy Vegan Dinners

Learn how to make easy, accessible, and satisfying vegan meals with cookbook author and culinary instructor Emily Paster. Recipes provided.

Tuesday, March 11, 7–8:30 pm 🏛

Volunteer Fair

Connect with local nonprofits and other organizations offering a variety of opportunities for adults and teens to get involved. Find a list of participants at VAPLD.info/VolunteerFair. Drop in.

Sunday, March 16, 1–3 pm 🏛

Portrayal of Lucille Ball

Beloved 1950s comedienne Lucille Ball comes to life in this dramatic portrayal that pays tribute to both the true comic legend and the real woman behind the myth. Presented by historian and actress Leslie Goddard.

Monday, March 17, 1–2 pm 🏛

Prepare Your Garden for Spring

Learn how to prepare your garden for spring–and the essentials of proper pruning–with Amy Powers, a professional garden coach dedicated to creating sustainable, beautiful, and low-maintenance landscapes.

Wednesday, March 19, 7–8 pm 🏛

Easy Vegan Dinners, March 11

Illinois Libraries Present

Log in for live events with celebrated authors and cultural influencers. Sign up in advance to receive the Zoom link.

These events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries. Funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Exploring Space with Coralie Adam

Tuesday, March 4, 7–8 pm Z

9 to 5: The Story of a Movement

View anytime March 21–23 Z

The Art of Foraging with Alexis Nikole Nelson

Thursday, April 10, 7–8 pm Z

Art and Adventures with Author/Illustrator Dan Santat

YOUTH PROGRAM

Saturday, May 3, 2–3 pm Z

Poverty: A Discussion with Matthew Desmond

Thursday, May 15, 7–8 pm Z

Frank Lloyd Wright & Nature

Explore how Frank Lloyd Wright integrated nature and innovative design in his architecture through a vision to reconnect his industrialized, increasingly isolated contemporaries with the natural world's essential truths. Presented by architectural historian Timothy Wittman from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Tuesday, March 25, 1–2 pm 🏛

Art Workshop: Artisan Wire Rings

Create a stunning wire-wrapped ring in your ring size, using three pieces of pure copper wire and a bead, with *Inventive Wire Weaving* jewelry book authors Susan and Mike Barzacchini. All tools, supplies and materials will be provided.

Monday, March 31, 3:30–5:30 pm or 6:30–8:30 pm 🏛

The Magical World of the Wizard of Oz

International Master Storyteller Megan Wells weaves the L. Frank Baum books, movies, and Broadway shows about the magical world of Oz into an engaging experience of imagination and memory.

Wednesday, April 2, 1–2 pm 🏛

Kid Market Sale Day

Browse and purchase homemade goods from this year's cohort of entrepreneurs in grades 2-8. The Kid Market sale day is their opportunity to put their junior B-school lessons into practice. Come support these kids and be inspired by their creativity.

Saturday, April 5, 1–3 pm 🏛

Shakespeare Project of Chicago presents "The Tempest"

A tale of magic, betrayal, and redemption, where the exiled Duke Prospero uses his powers to shipwreck his enemies on an island, seeking justice and reconciliation. The professional players of the Shakespeare Project of Chicago present a full, theatrical reading in the third performance of our 2024-2025 series.

Monday, April 7, 6:30–8:30 pm 🏛

Tea 101

Explore the rich history, diverse types, and brewing techniques of tea with Tea Sommelier Agnieszka Rapacz of Chicago Teahouse.

Tuesday, April 15, 1–2 pm 🏛

Discover the Arts of Korea at the Art Institute

Explore the Art Institute of Chicago's new gallery for the arts of Korea with Yeonsoo Chee, associate curator of Korean Art. See a wide range of objects, extending from ceramics to sculptures and painting, spanning 2,000 years from the Three Kingdoms period (about 57 BC) until today. Presented in partnership with Hanul Family Alliance.

Sunday, April 27, 1–2 pm 🏛

The AI Revolution is Now

See pg. 11 for details.

Tuesday, April 29, 7–8 pm 🏛

Concert: Bernstein to Bernstein

Explore the full range of Leonard Bernstein's genius, highlighting his exceptional ability to transcend musical boundaries, including classical, jazz, and Broadway with sopranos Kathleen Munson, Kristina Bachrach, and pianist Riko Higuma.

Thursday, May 1, 1–2 pm 🏛

Compost Give Back Event

Celebrate International Compost Awareness Week and get your garden ready for spring with free nutrient-rich soil. Bring a bucket. In partnership with the Lincolnshire Garden Club, SWALCO, Go Green Lincolnshire, and Village of Lincolnshire.

Saturday, May 10, 9 am–12 pm 🌳 Spring Lake Park

Art Workshop: Creative Magnets

Express yourself by creating magnet collages using bottle caps and glass gems. No art experience necessary.

Monday, May 12, 7–8 pm 🏛

A Tour of Five National Parks

Explore the visual beauty and history of five spectacular national parks: Badlands National Park, Glacier National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, Yellowstone National Park, and Zion National Park with author and travel expert Theresa L. Goodrich.

Tuesday, May 13, 1–2 pm 🏛 Ⓩ

A Tour of Five National Parks, May 13

Ruth Handler: The Story Behind Her Dream Doll Creation, Barbie

Storyteller Lynn Rymarz portrays Ruth Handler, the creator of Mattel's bestselling doll, Barbie. Learn about the fascinating woman who revolutionized the toy industry.

Tuesday, May 20, 7–8 pm

Crafting Work/Life Balance

Explore the roles self-management and community play in mastering the skills that cultivate balance. Walk away with tools and actionable steps to start making balance in your life a reality.

Wednesday, May 21, 7–8:30 pm Z

Financial Fitness Series

A free financial literacy series presented by a group of business librarians in the Chicago suburbs to provide access to reliable information from experienced financial advisors.

Planning for Retirement

Learn what to consider when retiring, how much money you will need, when to take Social Security and how to invest when you are retired in this information packed session with John Daly, CFP.

Thursday, April 3, 7–8:30 pm Z

Navigating Student Loans: Understanding Your Options

Explore strategies for managing student loan repayments while building a secure financial future with Barbara Ginty, CFP, CEPA.

Monday, April 7, 7–8:30 pm Z

Terry Savage Talks Money

Nationally recognized finance expert Terry Savage provides a reality check on the volatile economy, financial markets, and personal finance topics before taking time to answer your questions.

Wednesday, April 23, 7–8:30 pm Z

Creativity, Computer, & Technology Classes

AI Tools Overview

See pg. 11 for description.

Tuesday, March 4, 7–8:30 pm

Open Makerspace

Stop by to work on personalized gifts. We won't be teaching any new skills, but supplies will be available for sublimation printing and other crafts.

Wednesdays, 6:30–8:30 pm
March 5, April 16, May 14

Maker Classes

Create something new with step-by-step instructions. All supplies provided.

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 pm
March 13: Crochet a Chicken
April 10: Felt Succulents
May 8: Glass Etched Mirrors

Microsoft Word

Choose the session that's right for you.

Thursdays, 7–8:30 pm
March 20: Basics
March 27: Formatting
April 3: Advanced Topics

Microsoft Excel

Choose the session that's right for you.

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 pm
March 25: Basics
April 1: Formulas & Functions
April 8: Advanced Functions
April 15: Charts & Graphs
April 22: Pivot Tables

Microsoft PowerPoint: Ready To Go

Learn to use this popular presentation tool.

Thursday, April 17, 7–8:30 pm

Creating with Canva

Learn how to use Canva to create a design that can be printed on a mug using our sublimation printer (available in Open Makerspace classes).

Thursday, April 24, 7–8:30 pm

AI for Business

See description on pg. 11.

Tuesday, May 13, 6:30–7:30 pm

Discussions & Meetups

Spinning Yarns: Knit & Crochet Group

Connect with fellow yarn lovers in a friendly and creative space at the library. Bring your own supplies to work on your project. All levels welcome.

Wednesdays, 10–11 am
March 5, April 2, May 7

Games for Grown-ups TEENS & ADULTS

Play tabletop games together at the library or online.

Sundays, 12:30–4:30 pm Z
March 9, 23; April 6; May 18

English Language Learners Conversation Group

Practice your English conversation skills with a librarian and other non-native English speakers.

Tuesdays, 11 am–12 pm
Online: March 11, April 8, May 6 Z
In-Person: March 25, April 22, May 20

Book Discussion with Judy Levin

Now meeting in-person at the library. Read and discuss intriguing selections beyond the bestsellers. Limited copies are available to Vernon Area Public Library cardholders for checkout.

Thursdays, 10–11:30 am
March 13: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver
April 10: *Hang the Moon* by Jeannette Walls
May 8: *North Woods* by Daniel Mason

Writers' Support Group

Share work, meet fellow writers, get constructive feedback, and discuss the publishing business in this informal group. All writers welcome.

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 pm Z
March 13, April 10, May 8

Great Decisions Discussion Group

Discuss critical global issues from the Foreign Policy Association's *Great Decisions* book with facilitator Gary Midkiff.

Fridays, 1–2:30 pm Z
March 14, April 11, May 9
Wednesdays, 10:30 am–12 pm
March 19, April 16, May 21

Novel Night Book Discussion

Read and discuss captivating fiction you might have missed.

Tuesdays, 7–8:15 pm
March 18: *Mercury* by Amy Joe Burns
May 20: *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods

Thirsty Thursdays: Books on Tap

For readers in their 20s and 30s. See Meetup.com for details and signup.

Thursdays, 6–8 pm The Chatterbox in Long Grove
March 20, April 24, May 15

Reel Talk Movie Discussion

Use your library card to check out or stream the film in advance, then log in to share your thoughts.

Fridays, 3:30–4:30 pm Z
March 21: *Origin* (PG-13)
April 25: *Cowboys* (NR)
May 16: *Hester Street* (PG)

Memory Café - Buffalo Grove

Offering people with memory loss and their care partners activity and connection in a safe, supportive environment.

Thursdays, 2–3 pm Alcott Center, Buffalo Grove
March 27, April 24, May 22

Off the Hook: Knit & Crochet Group

Create in the company of other crafters online. Work on your own project, share ideas, and socialize. All skill levels welcome.

Mondays, 7–8:30 pm Z
March 31, April 28, May 19

World Language Movie Discussion: *All That Breathes*

Stream or borrow the movie with your library card, then discuss with fellow international cinema fans.

Wednesday, April 30, 7–8 pm Z

AI Book Discussion: *Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI* by Ethan Mollick

See pg. 11 for description.

Thursday, May 1, 7–8:15 pm

RECOMMENDED READING

Books in Bloom

How does your to-read list grow?
Let these botanical book covers inpire your spring reading.

The Hymn to Dionysus
by Natasha Pulley

The Love Elixir of Augusta Stern
by Lynda Cohen Loigman

Greenteeth
by Molly O'Neill

Junie
by Erin Crosby Eckstine

Yin Yang Love Song
by Lauren Kung Jessen

The Witches of El Paso
by Luis Jaramillo

The In-Between Bookstore
by Edward Underhill

Goddess of the River
by Vaishnavi Patel

The Fabled Earth
by Kimberly Brock

Eden Undone
by Abbott Kahler

The Serviceberry
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Custodians of Wonder
by Eliot Stein

The Role of AI in Our Community

A Q&A with Professor Davis Schneiderman, Lake Forest College

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is present in our daily lives, creating both opportunities and perils associated with this technology. AI is not going away, and its impact can be seen in everything from our education to healthcare to the workplace. What should we consider as we use and encounter artificial intelligence?

Over the next year, you'll notice AI programming and activities for all ages in many formats to help you better navigate this technology. We asked **Professor Davis Schneiderman**, from Lake Forest College, about the role of artificial intelligence in our community.

Q: Why should our library patrons be paying attention to the advances in AI?

A: AI is already paying attention to your patrons! Understanding these technologies helps us make informed choices about which AI tools to use and how to use them safely and effectively.

While generative AI is now visible to many people, AI technologies are already nearly ubiquitous. From the recommendations in our streaming services, to how we receive information, to how a loan application might be decided, AI is already making decisions that affect our daily lives. While newer applications such as ChatGPT will challenge us to adapt to their possible uses, it would be a mistake to think the future has only appeared in a sudden gust of historical and technological wind.

Q: How do you anticipate AI might impact education?

A: The impact of AI is significant and ranges from chatbots, to predictive analytics, to personalized tutor-bots, to automated evaluation tools. In addition, AI tools are already used to summarize books, generate study guides, and even write novels. While these tools can enhance learning and creativity, they also raise important questions about authorship, originality, and the future of human creativity.

Each use case comes with a series of ethical and, in some cases, existential questions: What is the role of an

effective educator? What does it mean to plagiarize? What does "good writing" mean in a world where machines can instantly produce "good writing?" And all of this ignores potential longer-term interactions between biology and technology that may impact how we learn and "store" information.

Q: What are your biggest ethical concerns when using AI?

A: The most significant concern is that each tiny ethical question raised by any AI application will, over time, require us to consistently reconsider what it means to be human. Our values change over time, and we are on the verge of significant social change that may test some of those most deeply held values.

This means that we need to consider, for instance, the ethics of using generative AI at the same time we consider what it means that generative AI exists with its often astounding capabilities. As researchers like Joy Buolamwini have demonstrated, AI systems can perpetuate and amplify existing societal biases, particularly affecting marginalized communities. Libraries are, of course, ideally suited to help the community explore both AI's potential and its limitations. We need equitable access to these technologies while we foster critical discussions about their impact on different segments of our society.

Davis Schneiderman is a leader in higher education, an interdisciplinary scholar, and a creative practitioner currently working at the intersection of artificial intelligence and the humanities.

Explore Artificial Intelligence Programming

AI Tools Overview

Explore a variety of AI tools, including a chatbot, photo generator, and more in this hands-on class. Learn how to use AI and what to expect from it.

Tuesday, March 4, 7–8:30 pm

AI Basics GRADES 6–12

From creating images to editing, and so much more, learn what AI technology can do and how to be safe while using it.

Monday, April 14, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm

The AI Revolution is Now

Dive into the current state of AI and its profound impact on society with Professor Davis Schneiderman of Lake Forest College. Explore the benefits and challenges of AI in various domains, including healthcare, finance, and media. Plus confront the pressing ethical issues, such as bias, privacy, and transparency.

Tuesday, April 29, 7–8 pm

AI Book Discussion: *Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI* by Ethan Mollick

Explore the potential benefits and possible pitfalls of artificial intelligence in this highly readable and informative book that reviews the history of how we arrived at the current state of AI and provides thoughtful guidance on how we might best harness this transformative technology going forward. Limited copies available to Vernon Area Public Library cardholders for checkout.

Thursday, May 1, 7–8:15 pm

AI for Business

Equip yourself with the tools to harness the power of AI effectively in marketing and communications or prospecting and business development.

Tuesday, May 13, 6:30–7:30 pm

Classes & Events *for teens*

Note location with each item (🏛 in person, Z online, 🌳 outdoors). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required, starting 30 days in advance, unless otherwise noted. Sign up at VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1486.

STEAM Workshop with SHS Girls in STEAM GRADES 4–8

Celebrate Women's History Month with an interactive workshop in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math led by the Stevenson High School Girls in STEAM.

Monday, March 10, 4:30–5:30 pm or 6–7 pm 🏛

Cook Along with Chef Kristyn THROUGH GRADE 8

Add some fun to Friday night. Log in from your kitchen and cook along live over Zoom using recipes you receive in advance.

Fridays, 7–8 pm Z
March 14: Lucky Leprechaun
April 11: Minecraft Mania
May 9: Ballpark Treats

Off the Page: A Teen Book Club GRADES 8–12

Participants get a copy of the book to keep and custard (our treat!).

Mondays, 7–8:15 pm 🏛 Culver's of Lincolnshire
March 17: *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline
April 21: *Lore* by Alexandra Bracken

Chess Challenge Meetup GRADES 5–8

Challenge a friend to a game of chess! Test your knowledge, sharpen your skills, and meet new friends.

Tuesday, March 25, 7–8:15 pm 🏛

Marshmallow Peeps Diorama Contest GRADES 6–12

Recreate a book, movie, or TV scene using marshmallow peeps. There will be prizes!

Thursday, March 27, 3–4:30 pm 🏛

Rebecca Caudill Award Book Discussion GRADES 6–8

Discuss one of the 2026 award contenders. Pick up a copy of the book (yours to keep) at the Youth Desk after registering.

Thursday, April 3, 7–8 pm 🏛

Kid Market Sale Day ALL AGES

Browse and purchase homemade goods from this year's cohort of entrepreneurs in grades 2-8. The Kid Market sale day is their opportunity to put their junior B-school lessons into practice. Support these kids and be inspired by their creativity.

Saturday, April 5, 1–3 pm 🏛

AI Basics GRADES 6–12

From creating images to editing, and so much more, learn what AI technology can do and how to be safe while using it.

Monday, April 14, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm 🏛

Coding with Ozobot GRADES 6–8

Learn the basics of coding with our newest robot, Ozobot! Use screen-less color coding to make Ozobot a moving character in a simple story.

Wednesday, April 23, 7–8:15 pm 🏛

Chess GRADES 5–8

Improve your skills by learning new strategies.

Monday, April 28, 6:30–7:30 pm 🏛

K-Drama Chat & Chill GRADES 8–12

Share your favorite shows, characters, plot twists, and discover new recommendations.

Monday, May 12, 7–8 pm 🏛

Teen Volunteering

Teen Service Club GRADES 7–12

Meet new people, participate in various community-service projects, and earn volunteer service hours. No library card required; no application or training; volunteer when it fits your schedule.

Wednesday, March 12, 6–7 pm 🏛
Saturday, May 31, 1–2 pm 🌳

Volunteer Fair TEENS & ADULTS

Connect with local nonprofits and other organizations offering a variety of opportunities for adults and teens to get involved. Find a list of participants at VAPLD.info/VolunteerFair. Drop in.

Sunday, March 16, 1–3 pm 🏛

Apply to be a Junior Volunteer

STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 7–12 IN THE FALL

Contribute to your community, develop new skills, and earn service hours by volunteering at the library this summer. During June and July, you'll help with the popular Summer Library Club by signing patrons up and presenting rewards when they complete activities.

Volunteers will be chosen via lottery from all qualifying applications. If you are selected, you'll receive an email from the library no later than Friday, April 25.

Find details about required training session dates and apply online at VAPLD.info/TeenVolunteers.

Applications accepted April 7–14

To sign up, visit VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1486.

Featured Resources *for elementary-aged kids*

SCIENCEFLIX

Find articles on Earth, space, health, physics, technology, math, and engineering. Includes news, experiments, and info on careers in science. Best for grades 4–9.
VAPLD.info/ScienceFlix

EXPLORE MORE ILLINOIS

Get free or discounted tickets to selected Illinois cultural attractions, including Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, Volo Museum, and Discovery Center Museum. VAPLD card required.
VAPLD.info/museum-passes

FIND YOUR NEXT READ

Looking for something new to read? Your youth librarians will help you find it! Complete the online form and receive a list of recommended reading just for you.
VAPLD.info/BookMatch

Classes & Events *for elementary-aged kids*

Note location with each item (🏛 in person, Z online). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required, starting 30 days in advance, unless otherwise noted. Sign up at VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1486.

Exploring Great Artists: Henri Rousseau GRADES K-5

Immerse yourself into the lush jungles of Henri Rousseau's imagination. Learn about the self-taught French artist and post-impressionism. Miss Jane provides step-by-step instructions to create your own collage masterpiece inspired by "The Dream" 1910.

Monday, March 3 🏛
Grades K-2: 4:30–5:30 pm
Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

Bluestem Award Book Discussion GRADES 3–5

This parent and child book group will discuss *Shine On, Luz Veliz!* by Rebecca Balcarcel. Pick up a copy of the book (yours to keep) at the Youth Desk.

Thursday, March 6, 7–8 pm 🏛

Take & Make Craft Kits ALL AGES

Stop by the library each month for instructions and supplies to make a craft. Available while supplies last beginning:

March 7: Moon Phases
April 4: Paper Flying Machines
May 2: Frog & Lily Pad

Family Concerts ALL AGES

Enjoy performances by nationally acclaimed children's musicians.

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am 🏛
March 8: Anne-Marie Akin
April 12: Istvan & His Imaginary Band
May 3: Little Miss Ann
Friday, May 30, 10–10:45 am 🏛: Leonardo Music

STEAM Workshop with SHS Girls in STEAM GRADES 4–8

Celebrate Women's History Month with an interactive workshop in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math led by the Stevenson High School Girls in STEAM.

Monday, March 10, 4:30–5:30 pm or 6–7 pm 🏛

Cook Along with Chef Kristyn GRADES K–8

Add some fun to Friday night. Log in from your kitchen and cook along live over Zoom using recipes you receive in advance.

Fridays, 7–8 pm Z
March 14: Lucky Leprechaun
April 11: Minecraft Mania
May 9: Ballpark Treats

Little Bits GRADES 3–5

Learn the ins and outs of Little Bits coding kits. Change up your pieces to create games and inventions.

Tuesday, March 18, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm

K9 Reading Buddies GRADES 1–5

Build confidence and encourage literacy as you read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Sign up for a 15-minute spot beginning 30 days before the program by calling 224-543-1486 or visiting the Youth Desk.

Wednesdays, 6:15–7:15 pm
March 19, April 16

Squishy Circuits: Conductors and Insulators GRADES K–5

Learn about creating a circuit, then test to see if household items are conductors or insulators.

Monday, March 24
Grades K-2: 1–2 pm
Grades 3-5: 3–4 pm

Chess Challenge Meetup GRADES 2–4

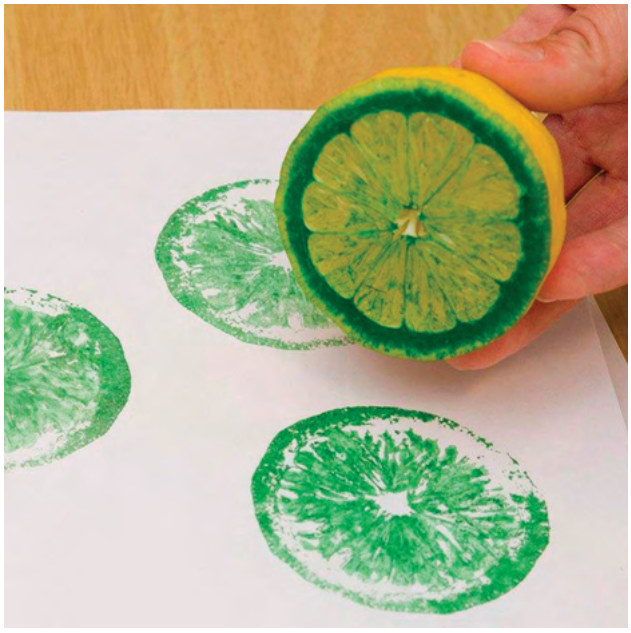
Challenge a friend to a game of chess! Test your knowledge, sharpen your skills, and meet new friends.

Tuesday, March 25, 4:30–5:45 pm

Spring Harvest Prints GRADES K-5

Learn how farmers grow the food we eat and which fruits and vegetables are harvested in spring. Then use assorted fruits and vegetables to experiment and create your own prints.

Wednesday, March 26
Grades K-2: 2–3 pm
Grades 3-5: 4–5 pm



Spring Harvest Prints, March 26

Develop chess skills in programs, March 25, April 28

April Fools' Day Science GRADES K-5

Is it a trick or is it science? Find out in this hands-on STEM class tailored to the wacky holiday.

Tuesday, April 1
Grades K-2: 4:30–5:15 pm
Grades 3-5: 7–7:45 pm

Kid Market Sale Day ALL AGES

Browse and purchase homemade goods from this year's cohort of entrepreneurs in grades 2-8. The Kid Market sale day is their opportunity to put their junior B-school lessons into practice. Come support these kids and be inspired by their creativity.

Saturday, April 5, 1–3 pm

Cartoon Workshop with Mark Anderson GRADES K–5

Exercise your creative muscles in this lively, interactive drawing class with professional cartoonist Mark Anderson.

Tuesday, April 8, 4:30–5:30 pm or 6–7 pm

Fascinating Physics GRADES K–5

Combining experiments and investigations, The Discovery Center Museum brings its interactive Fascinating Physics show to the library.

Tuesday, April 15, 6–7 pm

Lego Master Builders GRADES K–5

Work through several challenges then let your imagination run wild during free-building time.

Thursday, April 17, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm

Monarch Award Family Book Discussion GRADES K–2

Discuss one of the 2026 contenders for the Monarch Book Award. As a group, we will read the story together, share our thoughts, and enjoy a related craft.

Tuesday, April 22, 6:30–7:15 pm

Coding with Ozobot GRADES 3–5

Learn the basics of coding with our newest robot, Ozobot! Use screen-less color coding to make Ozobot a moving character in a simple story.

Wednesday, April 23, 4:30–5:45 pm

Chess GRADES 2–8

Improve your chess skills by learning new strategies.

Monday, April 28
Grades 2-4: 5–6 pm
Grades 5-8: 6:30–7:30 pm

Create Art with Miss Jane GRADES K–5

Create a special two-panel painting with your child in celebration of Mother's Day.

Wednesday, April 30
Grades K-2: 4:30–5:30 pm
Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

Illinois Libraries Present: Art and Adventures with Author/Illustrator Dan Santat YOUTH

Hear from the award-winning author and illustrator of books such as *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend*, *Are We There Yet?*, and *The Aquanaut*.

Saturday, May 3, 2–3 pm

Lego Robotics GRADES K–5

Build and program the Hungry Alligator model using the Lego Education WeDo software in this fun, hands-on program.

Monday, May 5
Grades K-2: 4:30 pm–5:30 pm
Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

Animals that Feed Us GRADES K–5

Learn about eco-friendly life on a farm with a visit from a local farmer and farm animal welfare experts at Crate Free USA.

Tuesday, May 6, 6–7 pm

Spring STEM Storytime GRADES K–2

Featuring a seasonal story and a variety of related STEM activities.

Thursday, May 15, 4:30–5:15 pm

Kid Market Sale Day, April 5

Classes & Events *for early childhood*

Drop In

It's easier than ever to make storytime part of your family's weekly routine. Drop in for the session that's right for your child's age. Claim an entry ticket when you arrive, then join the fun!

Baby Rhyme Storytime 0–14 MONTHS

Grow your baby's brain with songs, rhymes and books with Miss Kelsey. Then connect with neighbors while your baby plays with educational toys and socializes with others.

Wednesdays, 9:30–10:15 am 🏛
March 5, 12; April 2, 9, 23; May 7, 14, 28

Wiggling Ones 12–24 MONTHS

Add 30 minutes of joy to your week. Giggle, sing, and play along with your little one, other families, and Miss Julia.

Tuesdays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am 🏛
March 4, 11, 18; April 8, 15, 22; May 6, 13, 20

Together 2s & 3s 2–3 YEARS

Share stories and learn sign language with Miss Sarah. Activities center around a letter of the day.

Mondays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am 🏛
March 3, 10, 17; April 7, 14, 21; May 5, 12, 19

Preschool Storytime 3–5 YEARS

Get ready for school with Miss Emily by practicing the language, listening and pre-reading skills needed for kindergarten. Children attend without an adult.

Thursdays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am 🏛
March 6, 13, 20; April 3, 10, 17; May 1, 8, 15

Starry Night Storytime AGES 0–6

Get out those last few wiggles during an evening storytime with Miss Julia.

Thursdays, 6–6:30 pm 🏛
March 20, April 24, May 22

Spring Dance Celebration AGES 0–5

Dance away the winter blues with this high-energy, cheerful romp into spring.

Wednesday, March 26, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am 🏛

Saturday Storytime AGES 0–6

Literacy begins at the library! Expert librarians use books, songs, and props that capture the attention of all ages. Perfect for working families, bookworms, wiggleworms, and everyone in between!

Saturday, April 19, 10–10:30 am 🏛

Location: 🏛 in person, Ⓩ online

Sign Up in Advance

Free and open to all. For these storytimes and events, sign up 30 days in advance at VAPLD.info/calendar, by telephone at 224-543-1486 or at any public service desk in the library. Note location with each item (🏛 in person, Z online).

Evening Stories with Miss Emily AGE 3–GRADE 2

Put on pajamas and enjoy a bedtime story with Miss Emily. Sign up for each month separately.

Wednesdays, 7–7:30 pm Z
March 5, 12, 19; April 2, 9, 16; May 7, 14, 21

Science Detectives AGES 3–6

STEM-themed stories and activities with Miss Lisa Marie.

Fridays, 10–10:30 am 🏛
March 7, May 2

Family Concerts ALL AGES

Enjoy performances by nationally acclaimed children's musicians.

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am 🏛
March 8: Anne-Marie Akin
April 12: Istvan & His Imaginary Band
May 3: Little Miss Ann
Friday, May 30, 10–10:45 am 🏛: Leonardo Music

Superhero Story Time AGES 2–6

Meet some of your favorite heroes and listen to stories read by these special visitors from Parties with Character.

Saturday, March 15, 10–11:30 am 🏛

Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin AGES 0–6

Read stories and sing songs in Mandarin and English with Miss Laura.

Saturday, March 22, 10–10:30 am 🏛
Friday, May 16, 10–10:30 am 🏛

Mini Math Magicians AGES 3–5

Explore math concepts through books, games and activities with preschool pro Miss Emily.

Thursdays, 10–10:30 am 🏛
March 27, April 24

Bilingual Storytime: Portuguese AGES 0–6

Get an introduction to Portuguese through interactive stories and songs with The Language Labs.

Friday, April 4, 10–10:30 am 🏛

Oaks & Acorns Storytime AGES 0–6

Bring your little acorn to a very special storytime at a local assisted living facility. Home residents join an intergenerational experience that brings joy to everyone through songs, stories, and instruments.

Tuesday, April 29, 10–11 am 🏛 Sunrise of Buffalo Grove

Sunshine Squad AGES 0–6

Help build a better, more compassionate world. Stories and activities focus on social-emotional development and cultural appreciation.

10–10:45 am 🏛
Wednesday, April 30: Animal Friends
Saturday, May 17: Cultural Pride

Little Play Box Subscription

Ages 0–2 | Sign up

Babies and toddlers can craft too! Sign your child up for Little Play Box, a monthly subscription program, and receive a craft kit every month until their 3rd birthday.

Pick up beginning the first of each month at the drive-up window during all operating hours. Vernon Area Library card required.

To sign up, and for more details, visit: VAPLD.info/LittlePlayBox

Vernon Area Public Library
300 Olde Half Day Rd.
Lincolnshire, IL 60069–2901

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60069
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ECRWSS

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Connect

VAPLD.info

Main: 847-634-3650

App: Look for Vernon Area Public Library in your device's App Store

Socials: Follow @vernonlibrary for updates and fun content

Get a Library Card

Free and available to all district residents. Apply online at VAPLD.info/card or visit.

Returns

Return materials 24/7 in front of the library or at these drop boxes: VAPLD.info/bookdrops

Open

Monday–Thursday	9 am – 9 pm
Friday–Saturday	9 am – 5 pm
Sunday	10 am – 5 pm

"Mask required" access is available daily during the 30 minutes before official public hours for anyone who needs or prefers an extra measure of protection.

Closed

April 20
April 25, opens at 1 pm
May 25–26

This magazine is printed on recycled paper made of 30% post-consumer waste.

▲ New Seed Library

Beginning March 3, you can borrow seeds for planting, just like checking out books. Our new seed library offers a variety of seeds, including vegetables, herbs, and flowers, all sourced from reputable suppliers. You can "check out" seeds, plant them, and (if you wish) return harvested seeds at the end of the season to help grow the collection for others. Find the Seed Library in the Adult Department.